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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/066,519
	Filing Date	January 31, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Troy Walters et al.
	Art Unit	3732
	Examiner Name	Anuradha Ramana
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	5490-000269

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form  <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply  <input type="checkbox"/> After Final  <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition  <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application  <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address  <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer  <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund  <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC)  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences  <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)  <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):  <b>Request for Refund (Improper Charge of Deposit Account)(with Attachments A-D)</b>
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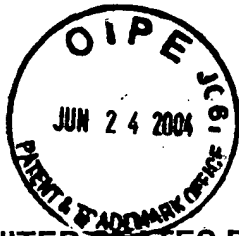
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Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Michael L. Taylor	Reg. No. 50,52
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Date	6/24/04		

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/066,519  
Filing Date: January 31, 2002  
Applicant: Walters, et al.  
Group Art Unit: 3732  
Examiner: Anu Ramana

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANIPULATING A  
FLEXIBLE STRAND AND SOFT TISSUE  
REPLACEMENT DURING SURGERY

Attorney Docket: 5490-000269

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**RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 30, 2003, for which the time period to respond extends to December 30, 2003, Applicants elect claims of Group III (Claims 37-46), with traverse.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Restriction Requirement since it appears that the subject matter defined within all the groups of claims are similar. Consequently, the field of search for each group should be essentially coextensive. Thus,

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Attorney Docket No. 5490-000269

the burden on the Examiner will not be significant to maintain each group of claims in this application.

Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding the election, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: Dec. 17, 2003

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